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## RECORD OF POLITICAL EVENTS.

[From May 1 to November 1, 1891.]

### I. THE UNITED STATES.

#### I. NATIONAL AFFAIRS.

**FOREIGN RELATIONS.**—The Behring Sea negotiations, without completing the arrangements for arbitration that seemed so near at hand at the close of the last RECORD, turned in May almost entirely to the attainment of a *modus vivendi* under which to avoid conflicts during the season then beginning. Upon the suggestion of the United States, a basis of the *modus vivendi* was found in the proposition that the killing of seals, both on land and on sea, should be suspended by both nations during the summer of 1891. The nearness of the opening of the season, and the danger of trouble at the fisheries if some agreement were not quickly reached, caused unusual celerity in the movement of diplomacy, and by the middle of June a conclusion was reached. The United States secured a modification of the fundamental proposition to the extent of a provision that 7500 seals might be taken by the commercial company which holds the sealing monopoly. These were to compensate the company for the maintenance of the people living on the seal islands, whom the company is bound by its lease to support. On the other hand, Great Britain only agreed to the arrangement on an express understanding that the main questions at issue should be promptly submitted to arbitration. The *modus vivendi* was made public by proclamation June 15. Its substance was as follows: Both governments prohibited sealing in the waters of Behring Sea east of the line of demarcation between Russia and Alaska, and the United States prohibited it on the shores and islands of her possessions, except as to the 7500 mentioned above. Offenders in the waters mentioned might be seized by naval or revenue officers of either power, but could be tried only in the courts of the government to which the accused owed allegiance. The United States agreed to permit British commissioners to visit or remain upon the islands to study seal life during the season. The British Parliament by act of June 11 gave the government authority to enforce the required prohibition. In accordance with the terms of the *modus vivendi* the sealing grounds in Behring Sea were very thoroughly patrolled by both British and American government vessels and large numbers of sealers, principally Canadian, were either driven off or seized. The companies in British Columbia whose business was thus ruined have petitioned the Crown for compensation, and on the other hand, the North American Commercial Company, which holds the monopoly from the United States government, has brought a claim against the United States for the loss sustained through being compelled to cease taking skins July 20. At the close of the season

the British minister, Sir Julian Pauncefote, called the attention of the President to the fact that the company had taken skins far in excess of the 7500 allowed by the *modus vivendi*. Both British and American commissioners made extensive investigations of seal life during the summer, to obtain facts for use in the arbitration proceedings. — **Relations with Chili** throughout the period under review have been of an unsatisfactory nature. The duty of the United States as a neutral in respect to the civil war was brought into prominence by **the case of the steamer Itata**. This vessel, the property of the Congressional party, was seized by a United States marshal May 5, in the port of San Diego, California, on the representation of the Chilian minister that she was about to take a supply of arms and ammunition to the insurgents. The next day the Itata, with the deputy marshal aboard, put to sea, took from a schooner that awaited her outside a cargo of rifles and cartridges, and sailed for Chili. Our naval commanders on the Pacific coast were immediately directed to search for the steamer, but she reached Iquique in safety June 4. There, however, she was promptly turned over with cargo intact to the American men-of-war which awaited her, and soon after was escorted back to San Diego to submit to the action of the court. Meanwhile, the schooner which had delivered the contraband articles was also seized and her officers and crew were put under arrest. Both vessels were ultimately released by the court, on the ground that no violation of neutrality was proved. In the case of the Itata an appeal was taken by the government. With the triumph of the Congressional party in September, popular dislike of the United States, both on account of the Itata matter and through reports that Minister Egan had favored the cause of Balmaceda, and that United States war vessels had carried intelligence of insurgent movements to their adversaries, manifested itself in numerous ways. The provisional government declined to give safe-conduct to refugees who found asylum with the minister, and kept his residence under so strict surveillance as to elicit formal remonstrance from Washington. On the 16th of October an affray in the streets of Valparaiso between the populace and seamen from the United States cruiser Baltimore, resulted in the death of two sailors and the wounding of many others. The vessel's commander, after investigation, reported that the sailors were unarmed and gave no provocation for an attack, that the Chilians were armed and greatly superior in numbers, and that certain facts indicated the participation of the police in the assault on the Americans. A week later, no expression of regret or of a purpose to investigate having been offered by Chili, a formal demand was made for an explanation of such a manifestation of unfriendliness to the United States, with the intimation that if no qualifying facts were forthcoming, full reparation would be expected. The reply of the provisional government declined to recognize the competence of any but Chilian authorities to judge criminal cases in Chilian territory, but declared that a judicial investigation (secret under the Chilian law) was in progress. Until the time arrived to disclose the result of this proceeding, it could not be admitted that either the affair in Valparaiso or the silence of the government was an expression of unfriendliness towards the United States. At the close of this RECORD the outlook for a peaceable and satisfactory settlement of the matter is considered very good. — The privileges of copyright in

the United States, under the provisions of the **International Copyright Act** of the last session of Congress, were by proclamation of the President, July 1, extended to citizens of Belgium, France, Great Britain and the British possessions, and Switzerland, on official assurance that in those countries citizens of the United States enjoyed the benefit of copyright on substantially the same basis as their own citizens. — The efforts of the State Department to terminate the **exclusion of American pork** from European countries have met with considerable success. Germany, on September 3, withdrew the prohibition on hog products absolutely and that on live swine under some conditions guaranteeing healthfulness. Denmark revoked its prohibition September 8. Italy followed Germany, October 21, as to hog products, but persisted in excluding the live animals. The situation in France is described below (page 778). It is the system of inspection at the port of exportation, as recently established under act of Congress, that has been most effective in bringing about the change of policy.

**INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION.** — An extension of four and a half per cent bonds falling due in September was resolved upon by the Secretary of the Treasury in June, after consultation with various banking and financial interests. By circular of July 2, holders of these bonds were offered the privilege of having them continued at two per cent, provided they were presented before September 2. On the latter date the time for presentation was extended to September 30. Of the \$50,869,200 outstanding at the time the offer was made, \$25,364,500 complied with its terms, and the redemption of the remainder proceeded with little strain upon the Treasury's gold balance. At the end of October about \$4,500,000 of the bonds remained outstanding. — A new form of **Treasury statement** was adopted in the issue for the month of June. It contains a summary of both the public debt and the cash balances, but separately stated and with a rearrangement of items on what appears to the Secretary a more logical plan. He includes the \$100,000,000 of gold constituting the greenback reserve in the general "gold coin" item, and gives up the custom of deducting from the cash balance the amount on deposit in the national banks or the fractional currency on hand. — A **commission on immigration** was appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury in May, whose duty was to proceed to the countries of Europe from which immigrants mainly come, and report upon the various phases of the immigration question as presented there, especially investigating the extent to which governmental or private organizations are encouraging or aiding the deportation to the United States of paupers, criminals and other defective classes. A report is expected by the opening of the next Congress. — The Postmaster-General issued on July 15 his advertisement for proposals for **foreign mail service** under the Postal Subsidy Act of the last session (see last RECORD, page 381). A large number of routes were submitted to competition, from Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific ports. The proposals were opened October 26, and disclosed twelve bids on eleven different routes. On four of these the bids, if accepted, will establish entirely new service, *viz.* Boston to Liverpool, New York to Buenos Ayres, New Orleans to Colon, and Galveston to Laguayra, Venezuela. The result of the advertisement is not altogether satisfactory, and new proposals will probably be asked for — Mr. Roosevelt, of

the Civil Service Commission, submitted to the President, August 17, an elaborate report of an investigation into the **relations of federal office-holders to primary elections** in Baltimore. The commissioner found what he considered a very deplorable state of affairs to exist there, the employees of the post-office and the United States marshal's office holding and using their positions solely with reference to the exigencies of ward politics. No attempt was made to conceal the most cynical disregard of the laws about interference in the primaries and assessments for political purposes. He recommended that a number of officers be dismissed from the service. — **Appointments to office:** Minister to Hayti, John S. Durham of Kentucky; Minister to Nicaragua, Costa Rica and San Salvador, Richard C. Shannon, of New York.

**THE CURRENCY.** — **The operation of the last coinage act** and the Treasury construction thereof were stated by Secretary Foster, in a letter made public October 12, substantially as follows: Since July 1, 1891, the coinage of silver dollars from bullion purchased under the act has practically ceased; for no treasury notes are being presented for redemption in silver dollars. The mints are coining only the bullion resulting from the redemption of trade dollars and from the subsidiary silver coins in the treasury. The treasury notes being redeemable in either gold or silver coin, at the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury, the provision that these two metals shall be maintained at parity "is a virtual promise that the notes shall always be redeemed in gold or its exact equivalent. . . . In addition to being redeemable in gold or silver coin, at the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury, and practically under the pledge to maintain the two metals at parity in gold, the treasury notes have behind each dollar practically a gold dollar's worth of silver bullion, while the present silver certificate is a promise to return to the bearer a silver dollar. Treasury notes are redeemed in gold when so presented for redemption at the Treasury or any Assistant Treasury of the United States."

**RECIPROCITY AND THE TARIFF.** — The negotiations under the reciprocity clause of the last tariff act have continued with some success. A treaty with Spain affecting **Cuba and Porto Rico** was proclaimed July 31. "In reciprocity and compensation for the admission into the United States," free of all duties, of sugars, molasses, coffee and hides, the Spanish government grants two schedules, one provisional, to last till July 1, 1892, and the other definitive, to go into effect after that date. The provisional schedule gives free entry to a few manufactured articles and to a number of agricultural and other natural products of the United States, such as salt meats, lard, oats, barley, rye, wheat, cotton seed, hay, fruit, vegetables and petroleum, with reduced duties on corn and wheat; the definitive schedule extends the free list to include many manufactures, and accords reduced rates on a large number of articles. The postponement of the permanent schedule until 1892 was due to the fact that treaties with other governments containing the "most-favored-nation clause" will not expire till then. — A treaty of similar character with **San Domingo** was proclaimed by the President, August 1, and was supplemented, August 8, by a decree of the Dominican government abolishing its free list for all nations but the United States, and increasing very

much the regular schedule rates on a number of articles on which the United States is by the treaty entitled to a reduction. — The reciprocity policy met with **failure in Venezuela**. A committee of the Congress of that republic reported against negotiating a treaty on the terms proposed by the United States. The ground of their conclusion was chiefly that the proposed agreement would result in a serious deficit in the revenues of Venezuela, without compensating advantage to her producers. — The resumption of negotiations with **Canada**, which had been appointed for October 12, was indefinitely postponed by President Harrison, on the ground that Secretary Blaine's health was too poor to permit of his entering upon the matter. It is understood that the Dominion government is especially eager for an arrangement, owing to the vigorous attacks of the Liberals on the commercial policy of the ministry and its weakened position since the last election and the death of Sir John Macdonald. — Negotiations with **Germany** have been for some time in progress, looking to more favorable terms of admission for our cereals in return for the placing of beet sugar on the free list in the McKinley Act, and **Mexico** appointed a plenipotentiary, August 31, to negotiate reciprocity at Washington. — The Commissioner of Internal Revenue published in July a statement of the probable production of sugar in the United States during the current fiscal year, and estimated that the **amount of the sugar bounty** under the tariff act would be about \$11,000,000. — A further and probably final stage has been reached in the long-standing difficulty about **the duty on hat trimmings**. Under the decision of the Supreme Court against the Treasury ruling (see RECORD for June, 1890, page 361), a reliquidation of duties was begun, but the claims for refunds became so enormous that the process was suspended in December, 1890, and the government took the matter again to the courts. Again the decisions were generally in favor of the importers, and accordingly in September an order was issued by the Secretary of the Treasury to resume the reliquidation.

**THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY.** — Important decisions by the Supreme Court have been as follows: May 11, the Pullman's Palace-Car Company *vs.* Pennsylvania: Held, that a tax on the property of a foreign car corporation, assessed on such part of its capital stock as corresponds to the proportion which the number of miles of road within the state over which the company's cars run bears to the total number of miles in the United States over which they run, is not a regulation of interstate commerce, and is therefore not unconstitutional. At the same time the court sustained the validity of the Massachusetts law taxing foreign corporations on their property situated within the state. May 25, Wilkerson *vs.* Rahrer: Held, that the original Package Act passed by the last Congress (*cf.* RECORD for December, 1890, page 737) is a valid regulation of interstate commerce, and that from the time it went into effect all existing state statutes affecting the trade in imported liquors became operative immediately without re-enactment. The decision of the lower court to the contrary was reversed. On the same date opinions were rendered declaring invalid, as infringements of the interstate commerce clause of the constitution, two state laws; *viz.*, that of Kentucky imposing a license tax on foreign express companies, and that of Virginia requiring inspection fees on flour manufactured without the state, when sold within the state.

Two cases also were decided in which the court held that a judge of a territorial court is subject absolutely to removal by the President, and therefore is not entitled to salary after the order of removal is issued. — The circuit court for Tennessee decided in August that the imprisonment of a man for ploughing on Sunday, though not in the court's opinion warranted by the law of the state, afforded no ground for the interference of the United States courts under that clause of the fourteenth amendment which forbids a state to deprive a citizen of the United States of his liberty without due process of law. The case has been taken to the Supreme Court. In Texas the law prohibiting aliens to hold land has been decided unconstitutional by the federal district court, and this case also has been appealed.

**THE MORMONS.** — A further advance in the process of readjusting political relations in Utah was manifested by the announcement in June that the "People's Party," the old Mormon political organization, was dissolved, and that for the future the former leaders and members of that organization desired that the politics of the territory should be conducted on the same party lines as in the other territories and the states. This step was taken in view of the approaching territorial election. It was suspected by many that the dissolution was only a ruse to break the strength of the opposition. Accordingly, while Democratic and Republican Parties were organized, the Liberal or anti-Mormon Party preserved its organization and made separate nominations. The elections in August resulted in a victory for the Democrats by a small plurality over the Liberals. — In its report to the Secretary of the Interior the Utah Commission intimates some doubt as to the sincerity of the action taken by the Mormon Party, but considers that at all events good results will ultimately come from it. As to polygamy, the commission reports for the year ending September 1, 1891, 109 convictions under the federal laws, and is unable to recommend the relaxation of their enforcement. At the same time, the advisability of granting statehood to Utah is emphatically denied. — In respect to the property of the Mormon Church, which by law was escheated to the United States, the Supreme Court, after having waited in vain for Congress to dispose of it, made in May a final decree as follows: Since there exist no trusts or purposes for which any part of the personal property could be used, and no person or corporation entitled to it, it ought to be devoted to such charitable uses as most nearly correspond to its former destiny, and it must remain in the hands of the receiver until some scheme shall be reported which shall satisfy the court as to its disposition.

## II. AFFAIRS IN THE STATES.

**ELECTIONS AND CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES.** — In **Rhode Island**, May 26, the legislature chose Republican state officers, there having been no majority in the popular voting in April. — The **Kentucky** election, August 3, resulted in the choice of Democratic state officers and of a legislature in which the Farmers' Alliance will have a strong if not controlling influence. The People's Party polled about 25,000 votes for its state ticket, but it was not strongly supported by the Alliance. The new state constitution was ratified by an overwhelming majority. — At a special election.

August 11, five **constitutional amendments in Texas** were ratified by popular vote. They provided (1) for a registration of voters in the larger towns and cities, and for legislative changes in the ballot laws; (2) for an increase in the regular school fund; (3) for ten per cent as the maximum rate of interest and six as the rate where none is specified in the contract; (4) for greater facilities in the working of local option; and (5) for the creation of additional courts of appeal. — In **Delaware** a special election was held, May 19, on the question of calling a convention to revise the constitution. To authorize such a convention the constitution requires a majority in the affirmative that shall equal a majority "of the highest vote cast at any one of the three general elections next preceding the day of voting for a convention." The vote in May fell a few hundreds short of the number necessary under this provision, and consequently the convention movement failed. The last revision of the constitution was in 1831. — The controversies over the governorship in **Connecticut** and **Nebraska** have not yet been concluded. The former is before the supreme court of the state, the latter before that of the United States. — An important **change in the election laws of Michigan** was made by the legislature in May. It was enacted that Presidential electors, instead of being chosen on a general ticket for the state, should be elected by Congressional districts. The purpose and the result of the enactment is to make certain that the electoral votes of the state shall be divided among the various parties. An attempt at similar legislation in Nebraska failed.

**BALLOT REFORM.** — Five states have introduced the new system since the close of the last RECORD, namely, Colorado, Delaware, Illinois, California and Pennsylvania. Of these, the first three have embodied in their laws the features best calculated to insure absolute secrecy in voting; the laws of the other two fall short of what the friends of the reform desire. Colorado passed also a Corrupt Practices Act, requiring from both candidates and campaign committees a sworn statement, after election, of all expenditures made. Michigan and Minnesota have so amended the ballot laws passed by them two years ago as to introduce the most effective features of the new system. New constitutional provisions in Kentucky and Texas have made it the duty of the legislatures in these states to enact laws on the general lines of the Australian plan.

**FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS.** — The most important question before the various conventions that met during the summer was as to the **attitude of the state Alliances toward the sub-treasury scheme**, as embodied in the Ocala platform of the national Alliance. Among the state organizations which indorsed the scheme were those of North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Arkansas, Maryland, Virginia, Georgia and Tennessee. In Texas the subject caused a very lively struggle, and after a decision had been reached in the affirmative, the opponents of the scheme held a separate convention at Fort Worth. A national convention called by this latter met at St. Louis, September 15, and considered methods for opposing — but within the Alliance — the sub-treasury project. The Missouri organization is strongly committed against it. Much opposition has been manifested also to the third-party movement. Even where this movement is favored, care is taken to have it carried on

wholly without the lines of the Alliance organizations. All that the latter can do is to advise their members as individuals to join the new party. — A paper which has come to be known as the "**Hold-your-wheat circular**" was distributed very widely among the farmers in the middle of the summer. On the basis of an elaborate exposition of the harvest situation in this country and abroad — an abundant crop here and almost total failure there — the circular pointed out how the farmer might secure all the advantage of this situation to himself and exclude the speculators to whom otherwise the gain would accrue: Let all Alliance members resolve not to market their wheat at less than, say, \$1.35 per bushel, and let them use their best efforts to bring their neighbors outside the order to the same resolution. Each state Alliance should form a committee to keep itself informed as to the state of the world's markets and so to be able to advise the members as to the minimum prices that might be insisted upon. This action, it was pointed out, would be similar to a strike, but with this difference: "The workingman loses money every day the strike lasts, while the farmer will not lose anything, and if some should be inconvenienced for a few weeks for ready cash, they will surely not be poorer by it. The workingman cannot tell whether he will be successful and how long it will take him to enforce his demands, but the farmer will know that in a year like this he must be successful, for nothing can be substituted for his product, and that a few weeks must decide the war." Responsibility for the circular was denied by some officials high in the councils of the national Farmers' Alliance, but by others it was admitted that the document originated among the leaders, though it went forth without formal action by the executive committee, and was in the nature, not of command, but of information and advice to the members. There were some signs in August that the Kansas farmers were tending to act on the lines suggested by the circular. — A co-operative concern known as **the National Union Company** of New York, with an enormous capital, has been organized with the approval of Alliance authorities and has made much progress in absorbing the various local business enterprises established by the farmers in different states. In Kansas and Kentucky all the Alliance stores, doing a business of many millions, have been brought under the company's control.

**THE THIRD-PARTY MOVEMENT.** — Under the call mentioned in the last RECORD, the **National Union Conference** assembled at Cincinnati, May 19. Members of the various Farmers' Alliances predominated among the 1418 delegates present. Thirty-two of the forty-four states were represented, but Kansas sent 411 delegates and Ohio 317, while the total number sent by these states together with Illinois, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Indiana, Iowa and Minnesota was 1147, leaving only 271 for the rest of the country. From the Southern states came 113 delegates, of which, however, the three states, Kentucky, West Virginia and Texas, sent 98. The essential work of the convention consisted in the adoption of resolutions declaring that a new party, to be known as the People's Party, was necessary and formulating its principles, and the appointment of a national committee to look after the interests of the new organization. More definite action in reference to the Presidential campaign of 1892 was omitted, in view of the official call already issued by the Farmers' Alliance, the Knights of Labor and other

organizations, for a conference next February. The national committee was directed to attend this conference, but in case no satisfactory arrangement could be made there, to call a nominating convention of the People's Party for June 1. The platform indorsed the St. Louis, Ocala and Omaha platforms of the Farmers' Alliances, summarizing them substantially as follows: Abolition of the national banks and adoption of the sub-treasury plan; free coinage of silver; prohibition of alien ownership of land; taxation that "shall not build up one interest or class at the expense of another"; revenues limited to the necessities of the government and honestly administered; a graduated income tax; rigid national control of the means of public communication and transportation, and government ownership, if necessary to remove existing abuses; the election of President, Vice-President and Senators by direct vote of the people. Several resolutions were passed, without incorporation in the platform, affecting interests of minor importance. Such were the recommendation of the question of universal suffrage to favorable consideration in the states and territories; a demand for an issue of treasury notes sufficient "to make the pay of [Union] soldiers equal to par with coin"; and an expression of belief in a legal eight-hour day. — In a number of states in which the farmers are strong, notably Iowa, Nebraska and Indiana, the new party has organized for the fall elections, but the general attitude is that of expectancy in view of the February convention of next year. The Ohio Alliance, in its convention May 28, resolved by a majority of one not to take steps toward nominating a state ticket.

**LABOR INTERESTS.** — The most conspicuous incident in this field has been the **resistance to convict labor** by the organized miners at Briceville, in eastern Tennessee. In consequence of some difficulties between the mining companies and their employees, the companies leased a large number of convicts from the state to do the work of the miners. The threats of the latter led to the calling out of a company of militia to guard the convicts. On July 20 a large force of miners and their sympathizers from the surrounding country, well armed and organized, surrounded the militia, loaded them and the convicts in cars and sent them to Knoxville. The governor called out all the state militia and by show of force induced the miners to allow the convicts to return, promising to summon the legislature to consider the convict-leasing system. The legislature met at the end of August, but could not agree upon any definite action in reference to the subject. Meanwhile, difficulties arose between the state and the companies in reference to the treatment of the convicts, and for a time work at the mines was at a standstill. When matters had resumed their normal course, suddenly, on the night of October 30, the miners appeared again at a convict camp, released the prisoners, furnishing them with plain clothes, and burned the stockade. The same process was repeated at other camps in the following days and when the RECORD closes some five hundred convicts are at large, while property to the value of many thousand dollars has been destroyed.

**NECROLOGY.** — July 4, Hannibal Hamlin, Vice-President of the United States, 1861-65; August 12, James Russell Lowell, the poet, and formerly minister to Spain and to Great Britain; August 21, Walter L. Bragg, member of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

## II. FOREIGN NATIONS.

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.**—The renewal of the **Triple Alliance** was announced June 29. Though the old treaty had not yet expired, it was thought best to avoid the risk of negotiations at the last moment. The new alliance is to run for six years, but the precise character of the stipulations has not been revealed. Considerable attention was attracted in June to the attitude of **Great Britain** toward the continental powers. A question in the House of Commons drew from the Foreign Office the admission that notes had been exchanged at various times with Italy upon the subject of the common interests of the two governments in the Mediterranean, and that the preservation of the *status quo* in that sea had been recognized as of the highest importance to both. In some circles this admission was believed to indicate the existence of an understanding that in case of war Great Britain should protect the Italian coasts against the French fleets. Suspicions even were aroused that the British government was secretly gravitating toward the Triple Alliance, though any such tendency was officially denied. The visit of the German Emperor to England in the middle of July was made the occasion of effusive demonstrations of cordiality between the two powers. A response to this from the foes of the alliance was to be found in the extravagantly elaborate reception accorded to the French fleet on its visit to Kronstadt a few days later. The international comedy was ended by the entertainment of the French fleet at Portsmouth, on its return from Russia, and Great Britain was supposed to have re-established thus her position of impartiality in reference to the continental rivals. Much curiosity was excited by a visit of M. de Giers, the Russian Foreign Minister, to King Humbert of Italy, on October 13. Semi-official announcements gave the Eastern question and not the Triple Alliance as the chief subject of consultation.—The old **Dardanelles question** has reappeared in the field of international debate. Some friction has manifested itself for months past in connection with the passage of Russian vessels through the straits (see last RECORD). During the summer a vessel of the Russian volunteer fleet, carrying unarmed soldiers between Black Sea ports and Siberia, was subjected to arrest and detention by the Turkish authorities. On September 1 the Porte apologized for the act and paid an indemnity for molesting the ship, conceding the Russian contention that technically the ship was not a war-ship and the persons under transport were not military forces. This triumph of Russia excited much comment, especially in the British and Austrian press. It was held that the spirit, if not the letter of the treaties closing the straits to war-ships was violated; and that the precedent created would be utilized by Russia for securing further advantages. The Porte explained, in a circular note to the powers, that the understanding with Russia was purely a regulation of administrative details to avoid misunderstandings in the enforcement of Turkey's authority in the straits. The "volunteer fleet" concerned consists of merchant vessels constructed with special reference to conversion into armed cruisers in an emergency.—**In the Balkans** the summer passed in a tranquillity that occasioned general surprise. Russia found at least one opportunity to make the usual re-

monstrance with the Sultan about his relations with Bulgaria. The young King of Servia was treated with ostentatious cordiality by the Czar at the Russian capital and was then passed on to receive similar courtesies from the Czar's good friends in France. On the other hand Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria was accorded an interview at Vienna with the Austrian Emperor. Though it was announced that Ferdinand was received, not as ruler of Bulgaria, but as a prince of the house of Coburg, good memories recalled a time when Francis Joseph had refused to receive him at all, and inferences were made as to the likelihood of closer relations between the great and the lesser power. M. Tricoupis, formerly prime minister of Greece, excited some discussion by a visit to the Balkan states in June with the avowed purpose of sounding public sentiment on the subject of a Balkan confederation. The exceedingly strained relations of Servia and Bulgaria, and of their respective supporters among the great powers, gave a Quixotic cast to the undertaking. — A renewal of difficulty between Great Britain and Russia on the question of **boundaries in Central Asia** was indicated by events in October. The scene of the dispute now is the Pamir table-land, a lofty region of much strategic importance just where Afghan, Russian and Chinese territories meet. An English officer travelling in this region was compelled to withdraw by a Russian detachment which he met; and shortly after it was reported that the Russian and Chinese border authorities had been in collision. On the basis of old treaties made before the geography of the region was known, Russia claims the whole of the Pamir region, while Great Britain and China reject the claim. The official discussion of the matter is suspended till authentic reports of the exact situation can be obtained. — **Commercial negotiations** have formed during the summer an unobtrusive but highly important feature of diplomatic activity. The representatives of Germany and Austria-Hungary reached a conclusion to their labors May 3, though the terms of the treaty agreed upon were not made public. The two central powers thereupon opened a series of negotiations with their neighbors, which was believed in some quarters to forebode the commercial isolation of France, newly committed to a high-tariff policy. The results up to date, however, have not been important. Insurmountable obstacles were found in the way of a treaty with Switzerland, and the negotiations at Berne were definitely broken off in the middle of August. Immediately after this conferences began at Munich with the plenipotentiaries of Italy, but up to the close of the RECORD no result has been announced. On October 19 it was reported that negotiations between Germany and Belgium had been broken off on account of the latter's unwillingness to concede free entry to German agricultural products. — The long-standing difficulty between **Great Britain and Portugal** in reference to the Zambesi country in Africa was settled by the definite ratification of a treaty June 6. The boundaries established do not differ greatly from those fixed by the earlier treaty which Portugal rejected (see RECORD for December, 1890). The general principle of the adjustment was stated by Lord Salisbury as follows: "The territory that will come to Great Britain will be territory that can be worked and occupied by white men, while the territory that will fall to Portugal will not entirely, but more generally, be territory worked by those native auxiliaries of which she commands a considerable

contingent." — **The work of the Anti-Slavery Conference** has encountered another threatening obstacle. As has been noted in this RECORD, the refusal of the Dutch plenipotentiaries to sign the "general act" was withdrawn at the last moment (December 30, 1890) and the act then went forth for ratification by the legislatures of the powers concerned. By July 2, the day fixed for the final signature and promulgation of the law, all the powers had ratified except France and Portugal. The French Chamber, by a large majority, referred the act back to the government for further examination, and Portugal declined to ratify unless all the other nations did. The chief French objection to the project of the conference was the extensive "right of search" given to war-vessels over suspected slavers. It was feared that the superior naval force of Great Britain might under color of this provision unduly harass French commerce in the East. A further possible influence was the right of pre-emption which France has by treaty over the Congo State in case Belgium is forced by financial stress to relinquish it. The chances of such relinquishment would be much diminished by the ratification of the act of the conference.

**GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.** — **The session of Parliament** was brought to a close at an unusually early date, August 5. The most important work accomplished was the passage of the acts dealing with Irish land purchase and free education. In the first of these the debates effected very little modification in the provisions of the government's draft as previously outlined in this RECORD (June, 1890). Mr. Balfour adopted and carried through a suggestion of Mr. Parnell adjusting the conditions of apportionment among the counties so as to give greater advantages to the small as compared with the large holders, and the Lords secured in turn some minor concessions to the latter. The bill passed its third reading in the Commons June 15. — As to **free education**, the government's project, introduced June 8 by Sir William Hart Dyke, was designed to relieve parents from the payment of fees in elementary schools. It provided for a government grant annually of ten shillings each for the average number of pupils between the ages of five and fourteen years in any such school, on condition that fees exceeding this sum should be reduced by this amount, and fees not exceeding this should be abolished. Discussion of the measure centred chiefly about the question of its effect upon the voluntary schools, denominational and otherwise. Conservative opposition based on fear of danger to the religious interests in education was quickly overcome, and radical amendments designed to establish "popular control" in the assisted schools, as well as universal free education, were voted down in committee. With few amendments — the most important being the extension of age limits to three and fifteen years respectively — the bill passed the Commons July 8, and went into effect September 1. It is estimated that the additional annual outlay demanded by the new system will be about £2,000,000. — After the prorogation the government suffered severe loss by two **deaths in the cabinet**. Mr. Henry Cecil Raikes, the Postmaster-General, died after a short illness August 24, and Mr. William Henry Smith, First Lord of the Treasury and government leader in the House of Commons, who had been in bad health for many months, died October 6. Mr. A. J. Balfour, the Chief Secretary for Ireland, was appointed on Octo-

ber 18 to succeed Mr. Smith as First Lord of the Treasury. This will make Mr. Balfour the Conservative leader in the Commons, and the Irish local government bill which is in preparation will be left to the care of his successor as Irish Secretary.—In view of the confidence felt in the success of the Liberals in the general elections next year, especial interest attached to the speech of **Mr. Gladstone at Newcastle**, October 4, before the National Liberal Federation. As to Lord Salisbury's foreign policy, the speaker in general approved it as the reverse of Lord Beaconsfield's, but hoped that Lord Salisbury would "relieve us from that burdensome and embarrassing occupation of Egypt, which, so long as it exists, must be a cause of weakness and a source of embarrassment." In internal affairs, Mr. Gladstone spoke favorably of local option in connection with the liquor question, and of disestablishment in Scotland and Wales, warned the House of Lords not to act upon Lord Salisbury's suggestion to block Home Rule if passed in the Commons, and took strong ground for reform of the "lodger franchise" and extension of "labor representation" in Parliament, insisting, in connection with the latter, upon the title of "men whose private means are inadequate to the performance of the public duty put upon them, to receive aid from the public treasury." As to Ireland, which he held must take precedence of all other subjects in the Liberal scheme, he rejoiced at the resolution of the government—rather tardy though it was—to fulfil its promise of a local government bill, but the reason for his rejoicing was that "every popularly-elected body in Ireland . . . will be a new focus of thought, you may say of excitement or of agitation, but of something or other which will tend in the direction of the fulfilment of the national wish." The government's bill, however, Mr. Gladstone believed, would be no real affirmation of the principle of equal rights, because it was already announced that the control of the police would not be granted to the Irish people, and local government in its essence he defined to be "a system devised for the purpose of enabling the inhabitants of each district to make provision for the security of their own lives and property." The address closed with an impassioned argument for Irish home rule in the fullest sense.—In Ireland the struggle between the two factions of the Nationalists continued with much animation, but the current set steadily against Mr. Parnell. An election in Carlow, July 7, resulted, like the two preceding electoral tests, in a decisive triumph for the anti-Parnellites; Messrs. Dillon and O'Brien, on their release from prison at the end of July, promptly proclaimed themselves opposed to the leadership of Parnell; and early in September the influential *Freeman's Journal*, of Dublin, which had remained faithful to the old leader, went over to the other side, confessing the impossibility of a leader whom the Catholic Church could not recognize. The sudden death of **Mr. Parnell** at Brighton, October 6, caused a great sensation in political circles, and the faction which had remained true to him sought to profit by the occasion to rouse popular sentiment against their adversaries, who they said had persecuted to death Ireland's greatest benefactor. The anti-Parnellite leaders were obliged, by fear of personal injury, to absent themselves from the funeral ceremonies at Dublin. Though serious trouble was expected, the obsequies passed off in perfect quiet. On the following day the Irish members of Parliament who

had remained faithful to Parnell issued a manifesto announcing their determination to carry out the cause of their dead leader, but declaring that "with the men who are immediately responsible for the disruption of the National Party, who in obedience to foreign dictation hounded to death the foremost man of our race, we can have no fellowship." Mr. J. E. Redmond was a little later chosen leader to succeed Mr. Parnell, and thereupon resigned his seat for North Wexford and stood for the vacancy in Cork caused by Parnell's death. This RECORD closes in the midst of a most heated contest between the two factions for the Cork seat, in which the scenes of the Kilkenny election are repeated. Street fighting is of daily occurrence, the mutual denunciations of the leaders are of the most bitter character, and most of the prominent men, especially among the anti-Parnellites, have suffered physical injury. An unsuccessful attempt was made October 26 to destroy the building occupied by the leading anti-Parnellite journal in Dublin with a dynamite bomb. — The dissension in Nationalist circles has probably had some effect in the **decrease in agrarian disturbance**. On June 13, the government considered the situation such as to justify a relaxation in the pressure of the Crimes Act. Under the power given by the act itself the Lord Lieutenant issued a proclamation suspending the operation of the law in all parts of Ireland except the county of Clare and five baronies in Donegal, Galway and Tipperary. The operations of the Plan of Campaign were seriously affected by the rupture in the Nationalist party, particularly as the money on which the tenants were accustomed to rely was tied up through the hostility of Messrs. Parnell and McCarthy, in whose names the "Parliamentary Fund" was deposited in a Paris bank. In Tipperary, where the conflict on the Smith-Barry estate was still in progress, a large and influential part of the town tenantry came to terms and resumed their old holdings at the end of June. — According to the census taken, April 5, the population of Ireland was 4,706,162, a decrease of nine per cent in the last decade.

**THE BRITISH COLONIES.** — A change in the Dominion cabinet was caused by the death of Sir John Macdonald, the premier, June 6. A week later the Lieutenant-Governor decided to call upon the Hon. J. J. C. Abbott, the Conservative leader in the Senate, to head the ministry. There was no change in the political complexion of the cabinet and little in the personnel. The Parliament at Ottawa was in session all summer and until September 30. Among the measures adopted were the extension of the *modus vivendi* in reference to the privileges of American fishermen, a heavy reduction in the duty on sugar, and the reorganization of the legislature for the Northwest Territories, with considerable increase in its powers. Much time during the session was devoted to an investigation of charges of **corruption in the Department of Public Works**, involving many public officials. Gross frauds were disclosed and a member of the House of Commons from Quebec was expelled for his connection with them. Sir Hector Langevin, the Minister of Public Works, resigned while the investigation was going on, but the committee's report, as adopted by the house just before prorogation, exonerated him from criminality, while severely censuring his subordinates in the department. The result of **the Canadian census** taken during the summer was a great surprise. The figures of the total were

4,823,344, an increase in ten years of but  $11\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. While the total increase was but half a million, the recorded immigration for the decade was a million, and the natural increase must have been twelve hundred thousand. The inference is that there has been a great movement of population from Canada into the United States. — **The discontent in Newfoundland** has been somewhat less acute than previously, but has by no means disappeared. On May 27, at the instance of the colonial delegates in London, the legislature at St. Johns passed — but with very poor grace — the so-called “coercion” bills necessary to enforce the *modus vivendi* and other treaties with France. Thereupon the bill pending in the British Parliament for the same end was withdrawn. In June the delegates visited France and arranged with the Foreign Office the outline of a plan through which, with satisfaction to all the interested parties, the adjudication of disputes on the coast should be assigned to some tribunal other than the naval commanders, as provided by the *modus vivendi*. During the fishing season there was the same series of incidents as in previous years to irritate the colonists. British lobster factories on the French shore were closed by the naval commanders, and on the other hand the strict enforcement of the colonial Bait Act, while harassing the French fishermen, at the same time caused great losses to the natives. — **In Australia** the ratification of the convention draft of the federal constitution has not yet been concluded. The leader of the movement, Sir Henry Parkes, premier of New South Wales, narrowly escaped defeat in a general election, but the question of federation did not enter largely into the campaign. In all the Australian colonies the Labor Party has shown itself a very powerful and well-managed organization, and it has to be reckoned with in all the political operations of the time. In the elections just mentioned in New South Wales, this party secured the balance of power in the legislature and employed their position to overthrow the cabinet of Sir Henry Parkes, October 17, because he refused to support an eight-hour law. The new minister, Mr. Dibbs, is an adversary of federation and in this finds many followers in the Labor Party. — The Manipur incident in India was terminated by the capture, trial and punishment, in the chief instance capitally, of the natives who were responsible for the outbreak. For the future Manipur was made a tributary state and received for its prince an infant member of the old royal family. Until the prince reaches his majority the administration will be wholly in the hands of a British Resident.

**GERMANY.** — A grain scarcity in the northeastern provinces of Prussia, accompanied by very high prices and very poor prospects for the next crop, led in May to loud demands from the Radicals, both in the press and in the Prussian legislature, for a decrease or total suspension of the import duties, at least on rye. On June 1, Chancellor Caprivi announced the resolution of the government not to act in the matter. Though prices continued to rise and the evident failure of the crop led Russia to prohibit the exportation of rye, the ministry, in the middle of August, issued an elaborate statement setting forth its reasons for still adhering to the position taken by the Chancellor. It was maintained that the crop prospects were not as bad as reported, that wheat would come in to supply the deficiency of rye, and that in view of the pending negotiations for commercial treaties any change

in the corn tariff would be dangerous to home industry. In the army commissariat a practical outcome of the situation was the substitution for the ordinary rye bread of a compound of wheat and rye, which the Emperor, after trial, pronounced highly agreeable. A commissioner sent out by the United States Department of Agriculture met with some success in October in calling attention to the advantages of American Indian corn as a cheap and wholesome substitute for rye. — The session of the **Prussian Landtag** terminated June 21, after a duration of seven months. Of the many important measures introduced by the government the two most prominent that passed were those reforming the administration of the income tax and of the East Prussian rural communes. In the former the principle of self-assessment was introduced; in the latter the remnants of feudal authority in the great landholders were in a large degree abolished. The educational reforms to which the Emperor had so fully committed himself were not passed. — On September 22 a decree was published announcing a **relaxation of the passport regulations in Alsace-Lorraine**. The only persons still required to possess passports are foreign officers in active service, ex-officers or cadets of military schools, and all under forty-five years of age who have lost German nationality. — At the reassembling of the Bundesrath, October 10, an important measure considered was a bill for dealing in a large way with the **liquor question**. The Emperor is known to be deeply interested in this project, but it is understood that the representatives of the other states are not favorably impressed with the proposition as presented. Another evidence of the Emperor's interest in the moral welfare of his people was the issue, October 26, of a very strongly-worded rescript to his ministry demanding vigorous measures for the repression of certain phases of the **social evil**, especially in Berlin. Against the class of men who live by the earnings of prostitutes the police were directed to proceed without mercy, and were assured of the Emperor's gratitude and protection. The courts were warned not to be led astray by a false humanity, and were commanded to punish even first offences with the highest possible penalties. And finally it was declared that "measures must be taken to deal with those advocates . . . who make it their business to bring about the triumph of wrong by frivolous opposition." It is expected that a bill to embody some of the Emperor's ideas will be brought forward in the Reichstag. — **The Socialist-Democratic congress** at Erfurt, October 16–21, expelled from the party several extremists who opposed the system of peaceful political propaganda, and, in a session which won praise for its character from their enemies, formulated a platform for the party's guidance in national and state politics. — **Died:** October 6, King Charles of Württemberg, after long illness and incapacity for actual government. He was succeeded by his son as William II.

**FRANCE.** — **The tariff debates** occupied most of the time of the Chamber of Deputies until the adjournment on July 18. The committee's draft prevailed over all attempts to modify it in principle, and the complete measure was adopted on the last day of the session by a vote of 387 to 110. As passed the bill applies to all the French colonies. It repeals the long-standing discrimination against American hog products and leaves them subject to the general duty of twenty francs per hundred kilos. An attempt under pressure of

the American minister to put this particular provision immediately in force failed in the Senate. The fall session of the Chambers began October 15. The consideration of the tariff was immediately undertaken by the Senate. On October 30 that body agreed to the removal of the prohibition on American pork, but fixed the duty at twenty-five francs — a change which necessitated further consideration by the Deputies before the act could go into effect. — **The Freycinet cabinet** has maintained itself in spite of vigorous attacks by the remnants of the Boulangists and the Radicals. An interpellation from which much was expected was based on the betrayal of War Department secrets by which the composition of the new explosive, melinite, became known abroad. The government was sustained, however, June 22, by 338 to 137. A much more threatening crisis was produced July 17 by an unexpected vote adverse to the ministry on an interpellation touching the Alsace-Lorraine passport system. The Chamber, however, reversed its vote next day and M. Freycinet renounced his determination to reign. — The announcement that the opera *Lohengrin* would be presented in Paris in September was made the basis of great activity among Radical agitators and German-haters, and the production of the piece was once postponed, though ostensibly on account of an actor's illness. The actual first night of the piece, September 16, required the presence of a large force of police and military about the opera-house to keep in subjection the mob which gathered in the streets. — **The suicide of General Boulanger**, who shot himself on the grave of his mistress at Brussels, September 30, seems to have removed the last relic of a foundation on which the anti-republican factions in France can build. — **Labor troubles** have been conspicuous during the period under review. On May 1, at Fourmies on the Belgian frontier, several lives were lost in a conflict between laborers and the military. A general strike of stage-drivers in Paris, May 24, was terminated the next day by the companies conceding the demands of the men. The railway employees on the lines centring at Paris went on strike in the middle of July, but were ultimately obliged to return to work. — **Ex-President Grevy** died at Mont-sous-Vaudrey September 9.

**AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.** — **In the new Reichsrath** the formation of a secure majority proved to be beyond the powers of Count Taaffe. The attempt to formulate a reply to the Emperor's address resulted in three drafts — emanating from the German Left, the Young Czechs and the Pole-Conservative coalition respectively, — neither of which could command a majority of the committee. To escape the resulting deadlock a wholly novel expedient was resorted to, *viz.* the adoption of a simple resolution of thanks to the Emperor for his gracious address. In consequence of its insecure position the government avoided projects touching race excitabilities, and the session passed in the consideration of non-contentious measures, generally of an economic and social character. After a vacation lasting from July 16 to October 10, the Reichsrath reassembled and on the latter date the budget for 1892 was presented, promising a surplus of half a million florins. — The Emperor paid a visit to Bohemia in the latter part of September and while there indicated very clearly his disapproval of the Young Czech movement for autonomous government. On the night of his return a railway bridge over which his train was to pass was partially destroyed by an explosion a

few hours before the imperial train was due there. The affair was supposed to be intended as a protest against the Emperor's expressions in Prague. — **The Hungarian Parliament** in August was the scene of violent disturbances caused by the Radicals in their opposition to the government's scheme of administrative reform. Count Szapary was ultimately obliged to withdraw his project, though he had a two-thirds majority behind him, and to content himself with the passage of a resolution approving the principle of the bill. The Radicals triumphed through obstruction. — The Hungarian budget, as presented October 7, looks to a surplus of 13,000 florins.

**ITALY.** — General absence of important incidents has characterized political life during the six months under review. **Parliament** remained in session until June 27, and was busied chiefly with schemes for regulating and improving the finances. On the occasion of Premier Rudini's definite announcement, at the end of the session, that the government would adhere unflinchingly to the Triple Alliance, the Radicals created such disturbance that the sitting had to be suspended. These energetic agitators had become so conspicuous outside the chamber that a week earlier the government issued a decree prohibiting the discussion of Italy's foreign relations in any public gathering in the kingdom. — A strong **anti-Papal demonstration** took place in Rome October 2, the anniversary of the plebiscite in 1870 by which the city became part of the kingdom. Many French pilgrims to the Vatican were in the city and one of them wrote "Vive le Pape" in the visitor's book at the tomb of Victor Emmanuel in the Pantheon, which on that day was the special resort of patriotic Italians. The action of the Frenchman was seized upon as an insult to the Italian king and kingdom, and the news as it spread created excitement which developed into a tumultuous expression of dislike for the Pope and for France. All the pilgrims in the city were made the victims of unpleasant proceedings, and the inmates of the Vatican were put in fear of serious violence. The incident caused a renewal of the discussion as to the withdrawal of the Pope from Rome. In France, the government ordered the bishops not to leave their dioceses without the government's permission and took other steps to discourage the pilgrimages. The Pope sent a circular note to the powers calling attention to the danger of his position, and declaring that the Pantheon incident proved a purpose on the Italian government's part to imprison him in the Vatican.

**SPAIN.** — **The Cortes** was in session till the middle of July, but adjourned without completing the government's large programme. The bills dealing with workingmen passed the Senate, but were not taken up in the lower house. In financial legislation greater results were reached. Bills passed under which the note issue was increased to about \$300,000,000, the charter of the Bank of Spain was prolonged for thirty years in return for a large advance to the government without interest, and a new issue of four per cent bonds was authorized to the amount of \$50,000,000. — A revolutionary outbreak occurred at Barcelona August 2, in which a little band of republicans attempted to surprise the garrison in their barracks, but were quickly overcome.

**RUSSIA.** — **The anti-Jewish policy** of the government was increased in severity by a decree late in April expelling from Moscow the artisan and

merchant classes of Jews who had long been tolerated in the city and who formed an important element in its business life. In May an ordinance was issued forbidding Jews to observe the Hebrew Sabbath by closing their shops or refraining from work, and requiring them, on the other hand, to observe Sunday and the other holy days of the Greek Church. This shows clearly the religious basis of the anti-Jewish propaganda, and connects it with repressive measures which have lately been taken against other sects in the empire, notably the Stundists. Foreign governments have assumed an attitude of watchfulness in respect to the vast emigration which Russia's severe measures have caused, and not only the continental neighbors of the empire, but also Great Britain and the United States have taken administrative precautions against the influx of the destitute people. Private charity has planned and to some extent carried out projects for settling colonies of the refugees in thinly populated regions, like Palestine and parts of South America. — **Short crops and famine** were foreseen in the summer, and on August 11 a decree was issued prohibiting the exportation of rye and rye meal through the ports of the Baltic, the Black Sea and the Sea of Azof, or over the western frontier. This was followed about November 1 by the same prohibition on all cereals and their products except wheat. Much suffering among the peasantry was reported in September and the Ministry of the Interior announced that thirteen governments were completely famine-stricken and that in seven or eight others partial famine prevailed. It was estimated in October that 32,000,000 peasants were destitute and would have to be supported for ten months. Elaborate schemes of relief have been organized in the cities and towns, and the Czar has decided that the money usually expended for court balls during the winter shall be devoted to the sufferers. — **The finances of the empire** have been the subject of much discussion. A new conversion loan which was announced in the spring was suddenly postponed indefinitely, and rumor connected the abandonment with the Rothschilds' anger at the government's anti-Jewish policy. In the middle of September the loan was again announced, but through other bankers. Popular sentiment and official influence in Germany were both strongly adverse to the investment, while Russophile enthusiasm worked strongly in its favor in France. Only a part of the amount offered was subscribed for in the time set and an extension was necessary. An announcement in October that the whole \$100,000,000 had been subscribed for was received with some scepticism. It was reported that the police had notified the bankers that no dealings with or through the house of Rothschild would be permitted in Russia.

**MINOR EUROPEAN STATES.** — **A change of ministry at Constantinople** was announced September 4. As Grand Vizier, Kiamil Pasha was replaced by Djevad Pasha, governor of Crete. The new cabinet announced a determination to adhere to the policy of its predecessors in both internal and foreign affairs, but to throw more energy into the administration. An insurrection in Yemen, in southwestern Arabia, held its own during the summer months against the Turkish troops, but early in October was reported to have been completely quelled. Later reports through other than Turkish sources make the situation a little more doubtful. — **The general elections in Norway**, October 8, resulted in gains for the Radicals, but not

to such an extent as to render practicable Premier Steen's policy of securing a foreign office distinct from that of Sweden. — **Portugal's new ministry** was announced May 22, with Chrysostomo at its head. The desperate financial straits of the government formed the chief topic in its programme, and unrelenting economy was promised. The state of the nation's credit is illustrated by the fact that a recent loan was secured on three per cent bonds taken at fifty-four per cent discount. — **The forcible expulsion of Queen Natalie from Servia** was resolved upon by the government, May 18, in accordance with a resolution of the Skupschtina. A popular uprising in the streets of Belgrade frustrated the first attempt to put her on a train, though not without hard fighting and the loss of several lives. The second attempt, before daylight the next morning, was successful, and the Queen was conveyed across the frontier into Hungary. She is prohibited from again entering Servia before the King has reached his majority.

**AFRICA.** — **A change in the Egyptian ministry** was brought about by the resignation of Riaz Pasha, May 12. The new cabinet was formed under the presidency of Mustapha Pasha Fehmy. It was considered that the retirement of Riaz Pasha was favorable to the progress of administrative reform which British influence was promoting. — **A disaster to the Germans in East Africa** occurred August 17. A strong column which had been sent inland was annihilated by a native tribe; all the German officers and native troops were slain and the ammunition and stores captured. November 1 word was received from Emin Pasha, who was conducting a German expedition into the interior, that he was on his way to visit the King of Ruanda — a proceeding which was likely to take him beyond the defined sphere of German influence. The German government promptly notified Great Britain that it repudiated responsibility for any of Emin's movements that encroached on the British sphere. — During May, before the treaty arrangements between Great Britain and Portugal were definitely carried out, there were several **conflicts in the Zambesi country** between the Portuguese and the forces of the British South Africa Company, and a number of lives were lost. The possession of valuable mining regions and important water-ways was the subject of dispute. — Friction between **France and Morocco** developed in October on the question of claim to the Oases of Touat in the Sahara. The Sultan claims the land by virtue of the tribute voluntarily paid to him by its inhabitants; the French claim rests on the recent partition of Africa among the European powers and on the *hinterland* doctrine recognized therein. A French force has been ordered to occupy the territory.

**CHINA.** — A series of **anti-Christian riots** in the valley of the Yang-tse-Kiang has covered nearly the whole of the last six months. Beginning at Wuhu, on May 12, with the destruction of a French Catholic mission, riotous demonstrations took place in a large number of towns and much foreign property was destroyed, chiefly that of missions and consulates. In only one case, at Wusueh, are lives reported lost, but many Europeans have been maltreated and all have been obliged to take refuge under naval protection. A large foreign naval force gathered promptly at Shanghai, and war-ships were despatched up the river to all the disturbed points. Early in September rioting was reported at Ichang, on the Yang-tse-Kiang, far above where it is navigable

to men-of-war, and signs of uneasiness were noted even further in the interior. The mobs were incited to their work by widely circulated stories of child-murder and other atrocities in the missionary convents and schools. It is believed that in many cases the riots are the work of secret societies bent on disturbance for political ends. The Chinese local authorities did not in every instance show great zeal in maintaining order. Diplomacy at Peking brought very strong pressure to bear upon the imperial government in favor of vigorous action, but until fall the security of foreigners in the disturbed regions depended chiefly on the European and American vessels. Indemnity has been offered for the property destroyed, and a number of rioters, with some of the delinquent officials, have been punished; but the Chinese government has insisted on the importance of proceeding with caution, lest a general insurrection should be provoked. The theory of political schemes at the basis of the disturbance is supported by the discovery of large shipments of arms to the secret societies. A British subject named Mason was convicted of implication in this affair. A note to the powers, September 25, announced the despatch of a strong naval force to patrol the Yang-tse-Kiang and expressed no doubt of the government's ability to cope with attempts at fresh breaches of the peace. Great Britain and Germany, replying in an identical note, accepted the assurance of China's good intentions, but declared that they must consult their ambassadors at Peking as to the ability of the government to carry out its intentions. Only the evidence of accomplished facts would be entirely satisfactory.

**SOUTH AMERICA.** — **The civil war in Chili** has reached a conclusion in the triumph of the Congressional party. An attempt at mediation in the first week in May by the diplomatic representatives of France, Brazil and the United States failed. Balmaceda, on the ground of an attempt to assassinate two of his cabinet, withdrew the safe-conducts given to the envoys of the Congress, and the lives of the latter were only saved by the protection of the foreign ministers. Each party devoted much energy during the summer to securing favor and supplies abroad. Hostilities were desultory, the Congressional party contenting themselves with the extreme northern provinces which they held. In the middle of August, however, a decisive struggle began. On the 20th the Congressists, by means of their fleet, landed a strong force on the coast about twenty miles north of Valparaiso. In a series of pitched battles they defeated Balmaceda's army and on the 29th were masters of the city. Pressing their victory they secured Santiago, the capital, the next day, and Balmaceda disappeared. With very little disorder or confusion the Congressional Junta assumed the functions of provisional government and issued orders for elections to restore administration under the constitution. The country very quickly resumed its normal quiet. On September 20, the missing Balmaceda committed suicide at the Argentine legation in Santiago, where he had been in concealment since the ruin of his cause. The general elections took place October 18 and resulted in a victory for the Liberals in both Presidential and Congressional contests. — **The political situation in Brazil** has not been altogether satisfactory. President Fonseca has caused much complaint by the rather arbitrary character of his administration. Several important provisions of the new constitution have been wholly dis-

regarded on the ground that no legislation has been passed to put them into effect. A regular party of opposition to the government has been organized — the Republican Constitutional Party. The Congress met early in July, but made little progress in important work, the opposition claiming that sufficient information was not furnished by the government, and that the latter was seeking to encroach on the sphere of the legislature. The financial situation in **the Argentine** has remained very bad, and the difficulties here have probably caused the disinclination of leading men to become candidates for the presidency at the approaching elections. A cabinet crisis October 17 resulted in the withdrawal of General Roca, a popular minister, from the ministry, and since then the situation has been regarded as critical, owing to the unsettled state of public feeling. — **A bill of rights for Venezuela** was enacted at Caracas in September. It contains very full guarantees for the equal enjoyment of civil and religious rights by all citizens, and ordains legal punishment upon "any one who shall enact, sign, execute or cause to be executed any decree, order or resolution which violates or infringes upon these guarantees." The measure seems aimed at such dictatorial authority as has been exercised by recent presidents. — Revolutionary outbreaks were reported during October in both Paraguay and Uruguay, but in both cases they were quickly suppressed by the governmental forces. The deplorable state of the finances in Uruguay is responsible for the trouble there.

**MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA.** — **A revision of the Mexican tariff** on a large scale was completed in September. Considerable advance was made on many products of the United States and a commissioner was appointed to negotiate a reciprocity treaty with our government. — The scanty intelligence received during the period under review from **the Central American republics** has related almost exclusively to revolutionary disturbances. Abortive insurrections have been reported in Honduras and Costa Rica. The government of Nicaragua in August banished a number of leading citizens on the ground of implication in a conspiracy. In Guatemala President Barillas excited much ill-feeling by manifesting a willingness to be a candidate for re-election, though the constitution explicitly makes an incumbent ineligible to succeed himself. An attempt of the San Salvador authorities to take from an American steamer, in one of their ports, a party of political refugees who happened to be passengers, was frustrated by the steamer's putting to sea without papers. A possible repetition of the Barrundia incident (see RECORD for June, 1891, p. 379) was thus avoided. — In **Hayti** an attempt at revolution was made at Port-au-Prince May 28. President Hipolyte promptly suppressed the movement and took merciless vengeance on all suspected of complicity in it. In pursuing his victims he was only restrained from invading the Mexican consulate in which they had taken refuge by the earnest protests of the whole diplomatic corps.

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